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1998

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
1998

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TOWN OF BENTON, NH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF TOWN OFFICERS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Da
Board of Selectmen:	Albert Boutin, Jr. Marjorie L. Robitzer Judith Richwagen	3 yrs. 3 yrs. 3 yrs.	1999 2000 2001
Moderator:	John Elliott, Jr.	2 yrs.	2000
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy	1 yr.	1999
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin	1 yr.	1999
Auditor:	John Richwagen	1 yr.	1999
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards	1 yr.	1999
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Richard Saffo, Jr. Debra McKean Arthur Christopher	3 yrs. 3 yrs. 3 Yrs.	1999 2000 2001
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	1999
Ballot Clerk:	Aaron Goodwin	1 yr.	1999
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin	1 yr.	1999
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Joseph Boutin, Jr. Jeffrey Elliott Daniel Elliott	3 yrs. 3 yrs. 3 Yrs.	1999 2000 2001
Planning Board:	Kenneth Kealey Richard Saffo, Sr. Jeffrey Elliott Albert Boutin, Jr. (Ex officio member)	5 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 5 Yrs.	1999 2000 2001
Sexton:	William J. Harris	1 Yr.	1999
Police Officer:	Stefan Cimikowski (Appointed by the Selectmen)		

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

State of New Hampshire

Grafton S.S.

Town of Benton

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 9th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

Article 1 - To choose a town clerk, a treasurer, a tax collector, an auditor, a ballot clerk, a ballot inspector, a sexton, and a surveyor of wood and lumber for a term of one year, a selectman, a supervisor of the checklist and a trustee of the trust funds for a term of three years, a member of the planning board for a term of four years and any other agents or officers necessary for the ensuing year.

Article 2 - To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

Article 3 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,904 from the un-reserved fund balance to be added to the C.R.F. for roads.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 4 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the C.R.F. for roads.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 5 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,750 and to authorize the selectmen to withdraw this sum from the C.R.F. for roads, in order to initiate the work on Section 1, of the BLAKTOP paving estimate on Howe Hill Rd. area, reclaimed and paved with 2" base course in 1996. Present scope of work: Scrape and sweep roadway surface and pave 1" compacted asphalt thickness of NH type F. mix

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 6 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,706 and to authorize the selectmen to withdraw this sum from the C.R.F. for roads, in order to initiate the work on Section 2, of the BLAKTOP paving estimate on Howe Hill Rd. from the end of the new paving to garage just past Bowles Rd. Present scope of work: Scrape and sweep the roadway, fine grade and roll, then pave 2" compacted asphalt, shim thickness of NH type F. mix.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT* (Cont'd)

State of New Hampshire

Article 7 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,650 and to authorize the selectmen to withdraw this sum from the C.R.F. for roads, in order to initiate the work on Section 2, of the BLAKTOP paving estimate on Tunnel Stream Rd. from Ingerson Rd. to the Rollins Rd. intersection to cover shim paving done in 1996. Scope of work: Sweep and scrape the roadway, pave 1" average compacted asphalt thickness of NH type F mix.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 8 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,351 which represents the operating budget for the year 1999. Said sum does not include any special or individual articles addressed.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

A True Copy - Attest

Selectmen of Benton

Marjorie L. Robitzer

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Judith A. Richwagen

TOWN OF BENTON

Report of the Town Clerk - 1998

Motor Vehicle Permits issued: (292)	\$23,810.00
Dog licenses issued & fines collected:	484.00
Certified copies, record searches, marriage licenses and other misc. fees	330.00

Total	\$24,624.00

Submitted to the Treasurer:

Motor Vehicles	\$23,450.00
Dog licenses and fines	456.00
Copies, record search, marriage licenses and others	211.00

Total	\$24,117.00

Retained by the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicles	\$360.00
Dog licenses	28.00
Copies, record searches, marriage licenses and others	119.00

Total	\$507.00

Notes from the Town Clerk's office

During the year the following important events took place:

- o There were 5 cemetery plots sold.
- o We registered 66 dogs, including one kennel license.
Only 4 Senior Citizens, over 65, registered dogs.
- o In 1996, I collected \$173.50 in dog fines. In 1998, I collected \$51.00 in fines.
This, I believe, is a result of better policing and a more conscientious effort
by owners to register their pets. Thank You!

Again, "Thank You", to the anonymous donor who hangs the Christmas wreath
at the Town Hall.

The more time I spend on Benton town history, the more I feel that our original name of Coventry should be brought back to the town. The name, Benton came from a popular Democratic Senator from Missouri, Thomas H. Benton, which is not of particular historical significance to the Town of Benton. Governor Wentworth's geographers discovered in 1763, an ungranted territory to the east of Haverhill and to the west of Woodstock. The Governor then granted this area to Theophilus Fitch and 64 others, a plot of 33,260 acres on January 11, 1764,

Report of the Town Clerk - 1998 (cont'd)

establishing a new township by the name of Coventry. Many of us in the town would like to start the process to return to our historic name, Coventry. There is an article in the Warrant for this years Town Meeting to investigate and pursue this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyn Bandy, Town Clerk



NOTE - license your dogs by Apr. 30th

IF DOG IS OVER 3 MONTHS OLD

MALE \$9.00

FEMALE \$9.00

NEUTERED MALE \$6.50

SPAYED FEMALE \$6.50

OWNER OVER 65 \$2.00

\$25.00 Forfeit if not licensed by June 1st. RSA 466:13

IMPORTANT! BE SURE TO BRING RABIES CERTIFICATE.

Licenses available from Lyn Bandy, your Town Clerk

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 1998

1998

	Cr.	Dr.
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes		\$153,820.29
Yield Taxes		11,857.37
Property Tax Overpayment		0.52
Land Use Change		946.00
	Total	\$166,624.18
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$127,727.73	
Yield Taxes	11,598.85	
Land Use Change	946.00	
	Total	\$140,272.58
Taxes Abated During the Year		552.98
Taxes Uncollected at Year-end		25,540.10
Yield Taxes		258.52
	Total	\$166,624.18

1997

	Cr	Dr
Taxes Uncollected at Beginning of Year		\$36,382.28
Deeded to Town		1,108.94
	Total	\$37,491.22
Costs		328.67
Interest on Delinquent Taxes		915.83
	Total	\$38,735.72
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer:		
Property Taxes	\$23,259.46	
Costs	328.67	
Redemption of land deeded to Town	1,108.94	
Interest	915.83	
Conversion to lien	13,122.82	
	Total	\$38,735.72
		=====

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 1998 (Cont'd)

1997

	Cr	Dr.
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year		\$14,783.38
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution		32.93
		=====
Total		\$14,816.31
Remitted to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$1,933.31	
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	32.93	
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	12,850.07	
		=====
Total		\$14,816.31

1996

Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year	\$13,166.85
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	839.21
	=====
Total	\$14,006.06
Remitted to Treasurer	
Redemptions	\$10,860.84
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	839.21
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	2,306.01
	=====
Total	\$14,006.06

1995

Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year	\$5,792.40
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	1,886.66
Liens Deeded to Municipality	246.14
	=====
Total	\$7,925.00
Remitted to Treasurer	
Redemptions	\$5,792.40
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	1886.66
Liens Deeded to Municipality	246.14
	=====
Total	\$7,925.00

Treasurer's Report

Received from Tax Collector:

Property taxes, lien redemptions	1995	\$5,792.40
Interest and costs		1,886.66

		\$7,679.06
Property taxes, lien redemptions	1996	\$10,860.84
Interest and costs		839.21

		\$11,700.05
Property taxes	1997	\$36,382.28
Property tax Interest		915.73
Property tax redemptions		1,933.31
Redemptions interest and costs		361.60
Transfer and record deed		12.00

		\$39,604.92
Property taxes	1998	\$127,727.73
Property tax and redemptions costs		1,108.94
Current Use release assessment		946.00
Yield taxes		3441.59

		\$133,224.26
	Sub-total	\$192,208.29

Received from the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle Permits	\$23,284.00
Transfers & Titles	166.00
Vital Statistics - State of New Hampshire	211.00
Dog Licenses issued	405.00
Penalties and Fines	51.00

	\$24,117.00

Received from the Selectmen:

Building Permits	\$90.00
Subdivision literature	5.00
Land Use - filing fee	12.30
Driveway permit	5.00
Pistol Permits	90.00
Interest - Trust Funds	264.16
Insurance rebate - 1st N.H. Bank	50.00

	\$516.46

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

Received from Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank	
Tax Anticipation Note	\$30,000.00
Rebate on prepaid loan interest	55.48
Transfer from Yield Account	9,195.62

	\$39,251.10
Received from State & Federal Sources	
State of New Hampshire - Revenue Sharing	\$4,923.40
State of New Hampshire - Rooms and Meal Tax	4,634.96
State of New Hampshire - D.O.T. Bloc Grant	10,756.43
State of New Hampshire /Fed. - In lieu of taxes	15,539.00
U.S. Treasury (F.E.M.A.)	15,783.00

	\$51,636.79
Total receipts for 1998	\$307,729.64
Cash on hand as of 1/1/98	55,055.91
Bank interest for 1998	1,221.41

	\$364,006.96
Less Selectmen's orders for 1998	\$253,989.65

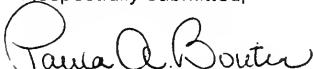
	\$110,017.31
Less voided checks	50.74

Year-end Total Cash	\$109,966.57
Acct. 30502 - Yield Account:	
Cash on hand - 1/1/98	\$13,231.48
Total Deposits	4648.35
Interest	260.53

	\$18,140.36
Withdrawal	9195.62

Year-end Balance	\$8,944.74

Respectfully submitted,



Paula A. Boutin, Treasurer

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Expenditures

Category	Approp. 98	Expend 98	Proposed 99
Selectmen & Expenses	\$1,700	\$1,515	\$1,700
Elections	800	833	600
Financial Administration	4,600	3,768	4,500
Legal	2,000	348	2,000
Planning	200	33	200
Community Building	1,800	1,362	1,800
Cemeteries	528	350	500
Insurance	2,850	2,533	2,700
Regional Associations	850	795	850
Police Protection	1,825	1,720	2,325
Ambulance	2,101	2,101	2,376
Fire Protection	3,000	2,500	2,500
Regular Road Fund	35,000	30,182	35,000
Social Services	2,000	1,041	2,000
To CRF - Roads	10,000	10,000	(See Art.4)
Last payment - Road Loan	9,000	9,000	9,000
Interest	1,500	1,330	1,300
Totals	\$79,754	\$69,411	\$69,351

Additions

Subtractions

Warrant Articles

Final Figures

Flooded Roads - F.E.M.A.

Check Received - 75% of estimated damage \$15,783

Due from State, final check for 25% \$5,042

This is a separate account, not included in above figures

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue:	'Est 1998	Rec 1998	Est 1999
Yield Taxes	\$9,250	\$11,857	\$10,000
Interest & Penalties on on delinquent taxes	7,000	5,092	5,000
Motor Vehicle Registrations	24,000	23,450	23,500
Building permits, other licenses, permits & fees	300	202	200
Federal & State, WMNF, in lieu of taxes	16,000	15,539	15,500
State of New Hampshire:			
Shared Revenue	4,000	4,923	4,500
Rooms & Meals Dist.	2,500	4,635	4,500
Highway Bloc Grant	10,640	10,756	9,783
F.E.M.A. (Not a budget item)		(15,783)	(5,042)
Income from Trust Funds	256	264	275
Dog Licenses & Fines	100	456	450
Interest on Deposits	600	1,482	1,000
Totals	\$74,646	\$78,656	\$74,708

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Category	Approp.	Extra Income	Total Avail	Expended	Balance Unexp.	Over- Draft
Selectmen & Expenses	\$1,700		\$1,700	\$1,515	\$185	
Elections & Registrations	800		800	833		\$33
Financial Administration	4,600		4,600	3,768	832	
Legal Expenses	2,000		2,000	348	1,652	
Planning & Zoning	200		200	33	167	
Community Building	1,800		1,800	1,362	438	
Cemeteries	528		528	350	178	
Insurance	2,850		2,850	2,533	317	
Regional Organizations	850		850	795	55	
Police Protection	1,825		1,825	1,720	105	
Ambulance Service	2,101		2,101	2,101		
Fire Protection	3,000		3,000	2,500	500	
Regular Road Account	35,000	86	35,086	27,175	4,904	
Materials & Supplies				3,007		
Welfare & Donations	2,000		2,000	1,041	959	
To CRF's Roads	10,000		10,000	10,000		
F.E.M.A. Roads		15,783	15,783	20,825		5,042
Interest	1,500		1,500	1,330	170	
Loan Repayment (Last Installment)	9,000		9,000	9,000		
Totals	\$79,754	\$15,869	\$95,623	\$90,236	\$10,462	\$5,075

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS
by Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries	Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	\$400.00
	Marjorie L. Robitzer	600.00
	Judith A. Richwagen	400.00
Expenses - Notices		115.00

		\$1,515.00

Elections and registration - Supervisors of the Checklist:

Richard Saffo, Jr.	\$108.15
Arthur Christopher	118.45
Debra McKean	87.55
Doris Boutin	10.30

Elections and registration - Other Election Personnel:

John Elliott - Moderator	92.70
Lyn Bandy - Town Clerk	92.70
Albert Boutin, Jr. - Selectman	41.20
Marjorie Robitzer - Selectman	92.70
Judy Richwagen - Selectman	10.30
Stefan Cimikowski - Selectman	10.30
Kate Goodwin - Ballot Clerk	82.40

Notices:

\$832.75

Financial Administration:

Paula Boutin - Treasurer	\$400.00
Sharon Edwards - Tax Collector	400.00
Lyn Bandy - Town Clerk	400.00
Jean Sutherland - Auditor	50.00
Joe Boutin, Jr. - Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	200.00
Town Report	540.00
Town Clerk Fees	145.00
Animal Control Officer	234.39
General Office Expenses	1,398.86

\$3,768.25

Insurance and Bonds:

N.H.M.A. Insurance & Liability Trust	\$1,833.00
Liberty Mutual, Workman's Comp.	750.00
Less N.H.M.A. Mutual Rebate	(50.00)

	\$2,533.00

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS (Cont'd)
by Selectmen

Regional Associations:

N.H. Assoc. of Assessing Officers	\$20.00
N.H. Municipal Association	500.00
North Country Council	239.60
N.H. City & Town Clerks Assoc.	20.00
N.H. Tax Collectors Association	15.00
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	\$794.60

Fire Protection:

Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Assoc.	\$1,000.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co.	750.00
North Haverhill Fire Co.	750.00
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	\$2,500.00

Roads:

Summer Maintenance	\$8,301.09
Winter Maintenance	18,874.50
Materials & Supplies	3,006.62
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	\$30,182.21

F.E.M.A. Rebuilding after washouts	\$20,298.25
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Community Building:

Telephone Service	\$332.12
N.H. Elec. Co-op (13 Months)	436.48
Walter Jock Co. (Fuel Oil & Burner Cleaning)	592.99
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	\$1,361.59

Police Account:	\$1,719.90
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Deposit to CRF for Roads:	\$10,000.00
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County Tax:	\$17,959.00
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Abatements & Refunds:	\$2,117.51
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State of New Hampshire:

Vital Records	\$178.00
Animal Population Control	83.50
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	\$261.50

Cemeteries - William J. Harris:	\$350.00
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DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS (Cont'd)
by Selectmen

Public Welfare:

Ambulance	\$2,100.80
Senior Citizen's Council	175.00
Tri-County Community Action	175.00
White Mountain Mental Health	300.00
North Country Home Health	300.00
Direct Assistance	91.30

	\$3,142.10

Taxes Brought by the Town: \$13,122.82

Interest on T.A.N.'s:	\$1,385.50
Less pre-payment rebate	(55.48)

	\$1,330.02

Planning & Zoning: \$33.00

Legal Damages: \$348.35

Repayment of T.A.N.'s:	
Mid-Year Loan	\$30,000.00
2nd Installment - Roads	9,000.00

	\$39,000.00

Schools: \$100,680.00

Total Checks Written \$253,955.33

Selectmen of Benton:

Marjorie Robitzer
 Marjorie Robitzer

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.
 Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Judith A. Richwagen
 Judith A. Richwagen

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Applicant - Town of Benton

Eligible - \$20,170.00	plus costs of administration - \$605.00
	Federal Share - \$15,128.00
	State Share - \$5042.00

Project - Flat Iron Road

Estimate	\$5,148.00
Cost	\$4,720.00

Project - Howe Hill Road

Estimate	\$3,249.00
Cost	\$3,479.00

Project - Page Road

Estimate	\$2,480.00
Cost	\$3,031.00

Project - Tunnel Stream Road

Estimate	\$9,293.00
Cost	\$8,985.00

Selectmen's Report

We made it through 1998 despite a larger than usual number of very windy rain storms. In late spring and early summer we had enough damage that we became eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance. After checking all the scouring and washouts of roads and culverts, we became the recipients of a check for \$15,783 which represented 75% of the work that should be done to put these roads in good shape. F.E.M.A. agents stressed that the work be done with the emphasis on proper drainage and prevention when the next storm hits. Dan got all of that work done, then added more gravel to raise road beds in some spots.

The state work on Route 116, Coventry Road, was started with drainage and ditch work well under way before winter caught up with the Morrill crews. The under laying repairs and the paving will be on the agenda for 1999. This should be, when finished, a great saver of time and money for all of our vehicles.

All of our new road signs have been put up to aid fire and ambulance calls in addition to friends to whom you have to give directions. The job is not a big help to service agencies though, unless you have put your house number in a clearly visible spot. Let's get 100% of the house numbers out for all to see.

As usual, we want to thank all of the people who do the many different Town jobs in addition to their own regular jobs. This isn't always easy, some of us are getting old, and others have time consuming jobs that leave them with so little time with their own families. The pay scale is token or nonexistent but without anyone's participation, we could be looking at tax rates similar to all of our surrounding towns. We need more people! Couldn't you spare some time for some of our unfilled jobs?

Let's all have a good productive 1999!

Selectmen of Benton

Judy Richwagen
Sam Boutin, Jr.
Marjorie Robitzer

Road Report

In the way of roads this year, we had lots of snow and an early spring which didn't cause many problems. However, a very wet June caused a number of problems which we kept track of. When F.E.M.A. qualified this area for disaster relief, we applied for and received money for repairs and improvements. We were able to put out a lot of gravel and culverts and have the roads graded by a motor grader. In late fall we started to rebuild some more road base on Tunnel Stream with 6" to 10" crushed gravel to lift and widen the road. I hope we support the paving projects in the warrants this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Elliott, Road Agent

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

Tunnel Stream Bridge Corner	0.3	acres	\$680
Parker Field	1.3	acres	2,950
Mountain View Cemetery	0.9	acres	2,040
High Street Cemetery	0.6	acres	1,360
East Cemetery	0.3	acres	680
Old Town Hall Lot	0.05	acres	110
North Benton Union Society Lot	0.7	acres	1,590
Benton Town Hall, Land & Building Furnishings & Equipment	0.2	acres	104,830 4,500
Benton Bible Chapel, Parsonage	1.7	acres	56,450
Benton Bible Chapel	1.4	acres	130,260

State of New Hampshire:

LaBounty Home	0.5	acres	1,140
N.H. Home for the Elderly	107.0	acres	584,540
State Forest Division	401.0	acres	112,280

United States Dept. of Agriculture:

U.S. Forest Service	23,658.8	acres	6,624,464
<hr/>			
Totals	24,174.8	acres	\$7,627,874

Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the year ending December 31, 1998

Funds donated to the Town of Benton are in the custody of the Trustees. Donations are distributed as specified by the donors. Funds received during the year are deposited in a savings account until they can be transferred to a Certificate of Deposit. All funds are held by Fleet Bank in Woodsville, N.H.

1998 Donations:

Deborah Sibley	\$30.00
Daniel and Laurie Elliott	\$80.00
Clyde and Nicole Tewksbury	\$120.00
Total	\$230.00

Status of the Funds is as follows:

Principal Amount of Regular Trust Funds	\$7,695.70
C.D. #8036579751	7,695.70
Recent amounts to be added	468.84
Savings Account #9358817753	468.84
Capital Reserve Fund - Highways (Incl, Int)	\$30,903.59
Capital Reserve Fund - Fires (Incl, Int)	3,957.16
Capital Reserve Fund - School (Incl, Int)	39,905.23
Capital Reserve Fund - School (Incl, Int)	15,817.91

Distributions at the end of 1998:

For cemetery Use	\$200.10
For the Schools	83.58
For the Highway Account	75.34
Total	\$359.02

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph N. Boutin, Jr.
Justen Elliott
Jeffrey Elliott

TOWN OF BENTON

Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under "Current Use" - 1,995.2 acres	\$171,650
Conservation Restriction - 371.3 acres	7,735
(Ad valorem value, \$942,750)	
All Other Taxable Land	3,359,670

Total of Taxable Land	\$3,539,055
Tax Exempt and Non-taxable Land - 24174.7 acres	\$7,609,040
Tax Exempt Buildings	\$750,280
Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$4,842,770
Manufactured Housing (per RSA 674:31)	563,960

Total of Taxable Buildings	\$5,406,730
Public Utilities:	
New England Hydro-Transmission	\$1,255,602
New England Power Co.	36,562
New Hampshire Elec. Co-op	392,985

Total	\$1,685,149
Total Assessments:	\$10,451,549
Less Elderly Exemptions (4)	30,000

Total	\$10,421,549
Tax Rate - 1998	X 14.82

	\$154,447
Plus Inventory Penalties	\$140
Less Veteran's Exemptions	\$800
Plus Late Assessment	\$33

Total Property Tax Commitment	\$153,820

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing any open burning. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws, please call 271-2217.

There are 2400 Forest Fire Wardens and Deputy Forest Fire Wardens throughout the state. Each town has a Forest Fire Warden and several Deputy Wardens who assist the Forest Rangers with forest fire suppression, prevention, and law enforcement. Early in 1998 we experienced an ice storm which caused severe damage to the forests of New Hampshire. This damage created a greater potential for fire hazard as well as for safety hazards to many areas in the state. Your local Fire Warden and Forest Rangers need your assistance in preventing wildfires in these hard hit areas and throughout the state. If you need assistance or information dealing with ice damaged woodlands, please call 1-800-444-8978.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid in the quick response from local fire departments. This is a critical factor in controlling the size of wildland fires and keeping the loss of property and suppression costs as low as possible.

1998 FIRE STATISTICS (All fires reported thru 12-23-98)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY

Belknap	44
Carroll	89
Cheshire	67
Coos	18
Grafton	43
Hillsborough	232
Merrimack	108
Rockingham	121
Strafford	64
Sullivan	12

TOTAL FIRES 798
TOTAL ACRES 442.86

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Smoking	5	Unknown	140
Debris Burni	34	Fireworks	6
Campfires	16	Arson/Suspicious	16
Power Lines	4	Illegal	231
Railroad	2	Rekindle	43
Equipment U	1	Disposal of ashes	19
Lightning	2		
Children	22		
OHRV	1		
Miscellaneou	20		

Benton Forest Fire Wardens
David Harris
William J. Harris

**TOWN MEETING
BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 10, 1998**

Called to order by Moderator, John Elliott, Jr. at 7:00 P.M. - Lyn Bandy, Town Clerk

Motion to recess to school meeting. Reconvened at 7:17 P.M.

Article 1

To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax collector, an Auditor, a Ballot clerk, a Ballot Inspector, a Sexton and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for the term of one year, a Selectman, a Supervisor of the Checklist and a Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three years and a Member of the Planning Board for five years, plus any other officers or agents for the ensuing year.

A motion was made and passed to move Article 4 before considering Article 1.

The following town officers were elected (by the clerk or moderator casting 1 ballot after a voice vote.)

Board of Selectmen (1)	Judy Richwagen
Moderator:	John Elliott
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards
Auditor:	John Richwagen
Ballot Clerk:	Aaron Goodwin
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin
Sexton:	Bill Harris
Sexton's Assistance	Marty Noble
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber:	Joe Boutin, Jr.
Supervisor of the Checklist: (3 yrs)	Arthur Christopher & Debbie McKean
Trustee of the Trust Funds: (3 yrs)	Daniel Elliott
Planning Board: (4yrs)	John Richwagen

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

The town voted to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

Article 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the capital reserve fund for roads.

The town voted to accept the article as written.

Article 4

By petition: We the undersigned, request that the Town of Benton vote on the proposed increases in annual pay for the following town officials at the Town Meeting on March 10, 1998:

Board of Selectmen:

Member: Increase from \$300 annually to \$600

Chairman: Increase from \$500 annually to \$800

Financial Administration:

Treasurer: Increase from \$300 annually to \$400

Tax Collector: Increase from \$300 annually to \$600

Town Clerk: Increase from \$300 annually to \$600

Other town officials: As the town may deem appropriate and necessary.

The motion was made and passed to accept increases as follows:

Board of Selectmen:

Member: Increase from \$300 annually to \$400

Chairman: Increase from \$500 annually to \$600

Financial Administration:

Treasurer: Increase from \$300 annually to \$400

Tax Collector: Increase from \$300 annually to \$400

Town Clerk: Increase from \$300 annually to \$400

Surveyor of Wood & Lumber: Increase from \$100 annually to \$200

Auditor: Increase from \$50 annually to \$100

Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$80,804 which represents the operating budget. The sum includes both individual articles addressed.

The motion was made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$79,604 which represents the increases agreed upon in Article 4. Article 5 was accepted as amended.

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to accept the Benton Cemetery by-laws as written.

The article was accepted as written.

The following people were recognized for their contributions to the town:

Richard Dickenson for doing all of the computer work on the Benton Town Report.

Cathy Steele for drawing up the cemetery by-laws.

Sera Harris for her many years of service to the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 P.M. All new officers were sworn in at the closing .

A true copy - Attest



Lyn Bandy - Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire

Vital Statistics

Marriages:

March 14, 1998	John A. Roden and Delores F. Rowland In Carroll, N.H.
July 11, 1998	David Russel Donlon and Marguerite A. Page In Benton, N.H.

Deaths:

January 25, 1998	Joshua Robert Thornton Son of Dale & Patricia Thornton
March 31, 1998	Marie Lambert A resident of Glencliff Home for the Elderly
April 16, 1998	Robert Livingston Miles Husband of Carol Miles of Benton
July 23, 1998	Michael Eugene Harris of Benton Son of William J. Harris of Benton
August 7, 1998	Richard H. Knott of Benton Husband of Lucille D. Knott of Benton
October 2, 1998	Christie Mitchell A resident of Glencliff Home for the Elderly
October 16, 1998	Lottie Boardman White of Benton Widow of Robert White
October 28, 1998	James O'Neil A resident of Glencliff Home for the Elderly
October 30, 1998	Roland Phillips Chase A resident of Glencliff Home for the Elderly
November 20, 1998	Roger Fontaine A resident of Glencliff Home for the Elderly

**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998**

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Veronica Saffo	Term Expires 2000
Shawn McKean	Term Expires 2001
Marty Noble	Term Expires 1999

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

John Elliott	Moderator
Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Sharon Edwards	Auditor
Lyn Bandy	Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Linda J. Nelson

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the Inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 9th day of March, 1999, at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon the following subjects:

- ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.
- ARTICLE 2: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 3: To choose one Member of the School board, for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 5: To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 6 To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.
- ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town. This Article is exclusive of any other Article on the Warrant. (The School Board recommends \$271,101.00.)
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to Twelve Thousand dollars (\$12,000) to be added to the Benton Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 1999 undesignated fund balance.
(Recommended by the School Board.)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to enroll Benton students in the public school of family choice, with the provision that the District will vote to cap the tuition costs for all Benton students at the tuition rates of Haverhill Cooperative School District, with the family assuming any additional costs for tuition and transportation to any district other than Haverhill Cooperative School District. This proposal to be funded from the Benton Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund for the 1999-2000 school year. (The School Board recommends this article.)

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this ____ day of February, 1999.

Veronica Saffo, Chairman

Marty Noble

Shawn McKean

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

**Annual School District
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 1998**

Time: 7:04 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.
Moderator: John Elliott

ARTICLE 2: To choose a clerk for the coming year.
Clerk: Lyn Bandy

ARTICLE 3: To choose one member of the school board for a term of three years.
School Board Member: Shawn McKean

ARTICLE 4: To choose a treasurer for the ensuing year.
Treasurer: Maxine Tyler

ARTICLE 5: To choose an auditor for the ensuing year.
Auditor: Sharon Edwards

ARTICLE 6: To hear reports of agents, committees, or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

The town voted to accept the reports as written and printed in the Benton Town Report of 1998.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the district will vote to set the salaries of school board members at \$200 per year, the school district treasurer at \$250 per year, auditor at \$30 per year, the school district moderator at \$16 per meeting, and the school district clerk at \$16 per meeting. (The School Board recommends this Article.)

At the recommendation of the school district treasurer, a motion was made to change the treasurer's salary to \$200 per year; auditor to \$50; moderator to \$31; and district clerk at \$31.

Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town. This Article is exclusive of any other Article on the Warrant. (The school board recommends \$265,851.99).

Accepted as written.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$12,000 to be added to the Benton Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established, with such amounts to be funded from the June 30, 1998 undesignated fund balance over \$15,000. (Recommended by the School Board).

Accepted as written.

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Laurie Elliot was thanked by the community for her twelve years of service on the Benton School Board.

Steve Cimikowski moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and passed by a voice vote at 7:17 p.m.

Lyn Bandy
Benton School District Clerk

Adjourned to town meeting at 7:17p.m.

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUES**

old #	new #		1997-98 <u>ACTUAL</u>	1998-99 <u>STIMATE</u>	1999-00 <u>PROPOSE</u>	+/-
Beginning Fund Balance			\$49,795	\$40,177	\$40,000	(\$177)
1121	1111	District Appropriation	\$163,680	\$128,451	\$101,467	(\$26,984)
1510		Interest	\$775	\$650	\$700	\$50
3110		Foundation Aid	\$72,446	\$85,847	\$108,742	\$22,895
3221	3241	Vocational Education Tuition	\$5,163	\$2,850	\$2,850	\$0
3222	3242	Vocational Transportation	\$679	\$808	\$475	(\$333)
3240	3230	Catastrophic Aid	\$12,043	\$0	\$0	\$0
3900	3220	Kindergarten Revenue	\$750	\$750	\$0	(\$750)
4810		National Forest Reserve	\$14,319	\$14,319	\$14,319	\$0
4920	4580	Medicaid Reimbursement	\$5,685	\$4,000	\$2,548	(\$1,452)
TOTAL REVENUE			\$275,540	\$265,852	\$271,101	\$5,249

SCHOOL TAX IMPACT			
	1.00 ON <u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	+/- <u>PERCENT</u>
1994-95	\$9,936	\$23.51	
1995-96	\$9,975	\$22.54	-4.13%
1996-97	\$10,108	\$20.05	-11.05%
1997-98	\$10,335	\$15.48	-22.79%
ACTUAL 1998-99	\$10,421	\$12.04	-22.22%
PROPOSED BUDGET 1999-00	\$10,421	\$9.74	-19.13%
ITH \$12,000 TRANSFER TO TRUST	\$10,421	\$10.89	-19.18%

Note Some account number changes - due to changes in State Financial Accounting Handbook

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY

old #	new #		Expenses <u>1997-98</u>	Budget <u>1998-99</u>	Proposed Budget <u>1999-2000</u>	+/-
A. Instruction						
1100		Regular Programs	210,034.55	211,574.00	232,200.00	20,626.00
1300		Vocational Education	3,800.00	3,800.00	4,000.00	200.00
TOTAL INSTRUCTION			213,834.55	215,374.00	236,200.00	20,826.00
B. Special Education						
1200		Special Programs	12,444.81	19,716.00	5,765.00	-13,951.00
1420	1430	Summer School	89.36	1,425.00	220.00	-1,205.00
2150		Speech and Audiology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2159		Speech - Summer School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION			12,534.17	21,141.00	5,985.00	-15,156.00
C. SAU Services						
2321		Office of the Superintendent	6,007.00	5,538.00	6,867.00	1,329.00
TOTAL SAU SERVICES			6,007.00	5,538.00	6,867.00	1,329.00
D. Transportation						
2552	2721	To and From School	15,288.60	15,699.00	14,613.00	-1,086.00
2553	2722	Handicapped	0.00	2,000.00	1,250.00	-750.00
2558	2726	Summer School Handicapped	145.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
2559	2723	Vocational	476.00	952.00	476.00	-476.00
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION			15,909.80	18,651.00	16,339.00	-2,312.00

Note: Some account number changes - due to changes in State Financial Accounting Handbook

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY (Continued)

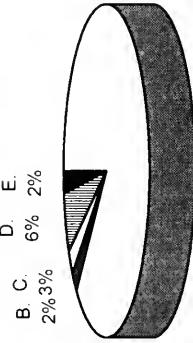
<u>E. School Board</u>		<u>Proposed Budget 1999-2000</u>	<u>Budget 1998-99</u>	<u>Budget 1997-98</u>	<u>+/-</u>
2311	School Board	2,987.65	2,823.00	3,260.00	437.00
2313	Treasurer	113.10	290.00	314.00	24.00
2314	Election and District Meeting	32.00	35.00	36.00	1.00
2315	Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
2317	Audit	30.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
TOTAL SCHOOL BOARD		3,162.75	5,148.00	5,710.00	562.00

F. Other District Wide Services Transfer to Expendable Trust

GRAND TOTAL 266,448.27

PROPOSED BUDGET DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

Category	Budget Amount	Percentage
A. Instruction	236,200.00	100%
B. SAU Services	205,542.00	87%
C. Transportation	16,339.00	7%
D. School Board	5,710.00	2.5%
E. Other District	0.00	0%
F. Special Ed.	5,985.00	2.5%
G. SAU Board	4,724.00	2%
H. 2%3%	4,724.00	2%



TO THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CITIZENS OF BENTON, I SUBMIT MY FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

SAU 23 has had a welcome year of stability and emphasis on programs. Wayne Fortier resumed the Chair of the SAU 23 Board, taking over from Denis Ward of Monroe who ended his School Board service to Monroe in March, 1998. Sarah Lester of Warren was elected Vice Chair. The SAU 23 Board Members of Bath, Benton, Haverhill, Piermont and Warren worked diligently to plan for the exit of Monroe in July, 1999. While it was inevitable that the remaining districts would have to assume a higher SAU Assessment without Monroe, the Board was able to contain SAU core costs, as displayed in the SAU Assessment History chart that follows.

Some of the best news of this year has been the stabilizing of SAU Finance Office operations. The SAU 23 Board entered a contract with TRACE Educational Consultants in Lebanon for the services of a Business Administrator for 60 days during the year. Arne Amaliksen, the TRACE Business Administrator, has worked closely with the Finance Office Staff led by Pat Amsden, Accounts Manager, with help from Jean Sutherland, Payroll/Personnel, and Connie Verratti, Accounts Payable. This configuration has worked extremely well, with District and SAU financial records receiving high marks from our auditors as being in the best shape ever - a welcome message.

The Special Needs Office is experiencing a smooth year under the leadership of Michael Penkert, Director of Instructional Support Services, and Sandee Rutherford, the Assistant Director. The skills these two bring to the Special Needs Program and to other student support issues can be measured by the success of those programs over the past year. SAU 23 received the final report from a New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) IDEA Review Team on each district's special education program. Schools were praised for their efficacy in providing special programs for our students. We thank David James, Monroe Principal, for skillfully Chairing the SAU 23 IDEA Assessment Committee, which included representatives from all SAU 23 schools as well as consultants from SERESC and the NH DOE.

The SAU 23 Board entered a five year lease agreement with the Town of Haverhill for offices in the renovated "original classrooms" section of the Town Offices. Construction, funded by a Community Development Block Grant, is scheduled to be completed by the spring or summer, 1999.

In Benton, Veronica Saffo continued as Chair, with Shawn McKean joining Marty Noble on the School Board. Benton Board Members are active participants in SAU 23 Board discussions and also monitor the work of the Haverhill Board. Before Benton voters in March, 1999 will be an Article to return school choice to families in Benton. Benton's tuition agreement with Haverhill Cooperative School District ends in June, 1999. The School Board

has requested that the voters consider establishing a tuition cap at the Haverhill schools' rates. This would allow families to send their children to other schools; however, if the tuition of another school exceeded that of Haverhill, the family would pick up the additional cost. (It is important to note that the District can only pay for public school choice. Private school tuition cannot be paid for by the public school district.) Currently, Benton receives a 10% tuition discount by sending all students to Haverhill. Establishing a tuition cap would reduce Benton's discount to 8% or less, depending on how many families choose to attend schools other than Haverhill. Tuition figures of surrounding schools and Haverhill discount plans are listed in this report.

With 100% of Benton students enrolled in Haverhill, it's important to review the year in Haverhill schools. The Haverhill Cooperative School Board membership remained stable this year with the re-election of Wayne Fortier and Harry Norcross. Robert Maccini, our most experienced Board Member, was elected Board Chair, with Kevin Shelton serving as Vice Chair. The Board has maintained a very clear focus on educational excellence, accountability and fiscal responsibility, as the budget that follows indicates. This is a difficult balance to maintain in a low-wealth, high educational need district. The Board has been unwavering and vigilant in the day-to-day, month-to-month, year-to-year task of allocating limited resources to the maximum benefit of students.

Haverhill Cooperative School District added one new school administrator in 1998. Brent Walker moved his family to Haverhill from Utah to assume the position of Assistant Principal at Woodsville High School. Robert Sampson, former Assistant Principal, left to assume an administrative post closer to his home. Brent has added significantly to our administrative talent, with past experience in administration in a much larger high school and solid understanding of the use of technology in education. He and Glen Page, WHS Technology Coordinator, were the key developers of Haverhill's successful Technology Literacy Grant (discussed below).

This report will review the schools' work in the context of our six goals, edited somewhat from last year, but essentially the same. Our Mission Statement is: All students will receive high quality academic instruction in positive, safe schools that promote inquiry and appreciation for life long learning. Our graduates will have the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully and productively in a democratic, technologically advanced society. We have made progress toward our goals in the past year.

1. Promote readiness for learning. The White House, SAU 23's pre-school program housed at Woodsville Elementary School, continues to thrive in its third year of operation. It is our hope to increase our contact with parents of young children so that all three and four year-olds will participate in one of the pre-school options offered in the Haverhill area.

At the White House, Deborah Smith assumed program leadership this year.

Head Start has moved its program to a new location on School Street, expanding their capacity for yearly childhood programs. If grant funding increases (information we won't have until late spring), we hope to expand the pre-school program to five days per week.

The Haverhill Community Resources, Inc., headed by Sue Greenwood, will continue to sponsor the Success by Six programs in Haverhill, including Family Night Out, which helps to link families to existing services in the area. A May, 1999 Family Night Out will be co-sponsored by HCR and SAU 23 at Woodsville Elementary School.

Another initiative to promote learning readiness is the plan at Woodsville Elementary School to offer full day kindergarten starting in the fall, 1999. Teachers at WES have provided us with a strong, research-based rationale for strengthening our early learning programs in order to meet our goal that all students will read and be able to problem-solve in math on grade level by grade three. Current knowledge of the importance of early, enriched learning environments for children as the basis for strong academic performance in later years makes it imperative that we make pre-school and kindergarten programs available.

2. Empower students to be successful learners. This goal is the heart of our academic program. We are committed to the goal that all students will be performing at or above grade level in reading and mathematics problem-solving by third grade. It is essential that we meet this goal, because we know that the foundation for future success in school is set by third grade. Obviously, some students with particular learning problems may not meet this standard. However, we shall be able to tell the parent what particular learning circumstance has hindered progress, if a child does not meet the goal.

To help us measure and monitor this goal, SAU 23 has hired a Reading, Assessment and Curriculum Specialist through Title 1 funding for the 1999-2000 year. Dr. Jacqueline Verville, currently on staff in Monroe, will join SAU 23 next year to help us meet our early learning goals. She has proven to be an excellent resource for teachers and parents in measuring learning progress. She'll be housed at Woodsville Elementary School, although all SAU 23 schools will have access to her expertise as we work to track student progress in reading and math.

America Reads, a volunteer program sponsored by the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and spearheaded by Edith Celley, has been a valuable addition to WES this year. Directed locally by Margaret Fallon, America Reads brings senior volunteers into the elementary school to work with students on reading activities. These kinds of supplemental programs are very useful in expanding our capacity to help students stay on track in reading. They're also a wonderful way for students and seniors to connect. We thank Edith for her tenacity in pursuing funding for this initiative.

On the state testing front, we continue to learn about how best to use the information from the NH Assessments. The information we receive allows us to monitor how our curriculum and instruction measure up to state standards. State-wide, scores were lower this year, and Haverhill schools matched that trend. Our scores do approximate state averages in several areas. We are learning better ways to disaggregate the test data by student, grade and item on the test. This helps us determine gaps in our curriculum or where our instructional approaches differ from tested items. We continue to talk with School Boards, teacher and parents about how the NH Assessments (designed as criterion referenced tests) differ from norm-referenced standardized tests like the Iowa Test for Basic Skills (ITBS) or the California Assessment Test (CAT). While I won't go into a discussion of the differences here, I do need to report they are very different kinds of tests. Both are useful in tracking progress, but it's important to know how they differ and when to use one or the other. For example, when we determine our final set of measurable objectives for the District, we'll also specify the range of measures to track progress. One set will not be enough.

The work of SAU 23's Curriculum Advisory Committee continues with Nancy Sandell of Piermont Village School as Chair. We have reviewed the core curriculum documents in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies and plan a revision of these documents over the spring and summer. The Technology Framework and the Art Framework were adopted by the SAU Board. A Career Preparation Framework will be folded into those four core Frameworks to ensure that students receive appropriate career preparation during the course of their studies.

Renewal of our partnership with local businesses through HABIR, the Haverhill Area Business and Industry Roundtable, promises to introduce new career learning experiences for students into our curriculum. We are meeting monthly with local business leaders and students to develop positive ways to prepare students for employment. One of our system objectives will be to ensure that all students have appropriate career learning opportunities, including job shadowing experiences when possible.

Technology: The District Meeting's support for a Warrant Article implementing the first phase of Haverhill's Technology Plan at Woodsville Elementary School has made a significant impact at WES. Wiring is nearly complete to hook up every classroom to INTERNET, and each classroom now has at least three computers and one printer. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Glen Page, WHS's Computer Instructor, all three schools are wired for INTERNET and on the verge of a District-wide Intranet linkup.

We have been able to stretch the Warrant Article funding to expand capacity at HCMS as well, with two computers per classroom (ahead of schedule) in the fourth - sixth grade classes. WHS has used funds from NH Technical College to up-grade the computer laboratory.

Warrant Article funds allowed us to send a team of teachers to a week-long technology conference in Conway over the summer. An even larger contingent of teachers attended the Christa MacAuliffe Technology Conference in Nashua, one of the premier professional technology conferences in New England. Additional school-based professional development has been offered periodically throughout the year. On-going training for teachers in computer applications is becoming a permanent component of the District's Professional Development Plan, as we expand technology capacity.

That capacity took a significant leap forward with Haverhill's receipt of a Technology Literacy Grant in January, 1999. Thanks, in particular, to the work of Glen Page and Brent Walker at WHS, a Haverhill Consortium Grant for \$149,220 was awarded. The funds will enable us to install a T1 line to WHS to expand INTERNET capacity, to hire an SAU Technology Coordinator for one year to help all schools utilized the technology now available, and to upgrade WHS and HCMS technology laboratories. Professional development for teachers and interested community members will also be available through this grant in the form of two summers of a Computer Camp, plans for which will be finalized in the spring.

The School Board plans to support the installation of a Distance Learning Studio at WHS, with an eventual link up for HCMS, with savings realized from the teacher contract settlement in 1998. Advanced placement courses and access to state-wide and national courses and programs will be available to students and community members, once the Studio is in place. The District is working with the North Country Educational Foundation to plan the installation of the Distance Learning Studio. An upgrade of WHS's Technology Education Program has also won Board support, with the installation of a Manufacturing Education Program this spring. The District will work in cooperation with the New Hampshire Technical College to implement this program for WHS, under the leadership of Mark Heels, our Technology Education Coordinator.

3. Create safe, positive learning environments. The schools have made major progress in this area, thanks to on-going work between Mike Mezzocchi and teachers and guidance counselors on each school's behavior management plans. In response to problems at HCMS, the Board supported the addition of a Student Support Center model of behavior management. Under the leadership of Mrs. Tracy and Mr. St. Pierre, HCMS has completely turned around a difficult situation. The HCMS Student Support Center has, in fact, become a model for middle school behavior management. Mike Mezzocchi has sent visitors from other states to talk with HCMS faculty and staff about how to establish a similar program. WES and WHS have modifications of the Support Center in place this year. However, the program at HCMS has proven so successful that Support Centers will be fully in place at the other two schools next year.

A second Student Aspirations Survey was conducted in all three schools, using

the model from the National Center for Student Aspirations. Data from this survey shapes program planning in all three schools. Issues of gender equity and student self-esteem continue to be problematic. Each school is addressing the issues as is appropriate for their age level.

Extra-curricular clubs and special activities at each of the schools go a long way toward creating positive learning experiences. The Middle School Soccer Tournament in the fall under the able leadership of Assistant Principal Bob St. Pierre, the high quality musical performances at HCMS and WHS year in and year out thanks to David Heinz' commitment to our children, the playground in progress at WES under the direction of Mary Kerns, Gina Guidici-Oaks, Melissa Gould and the PTA, are a few examples of the extras that make Haverhill schools very positive places for students.

In terms of the physical environment of schools, classroom furniture purchases of \$12,000 per school are proposed in this budget as the first of a three-year cycle to replace some very worn desks and tables in the schools. With three years at this level of investment, classrooms should be substantially more comfortable for students.

The Honeywell Contract realized the first-year goal of energy efficient savings in the buildings' heating, lighting and air quality systems. The Honeywell Contract is being monitored by Richard Patten, Custodian at WES. Dan Davis, Custodian at HCMS, has been trained to be a back-up for Richard. They both do an excellent job of monitoring this contract for us and will continue to do so in year three of the ten year plan.

In this year's budget, the Board has set aside funds for some much-needed building improvements. Repair of the Community Building steps and re-seeding of Kings Plain are included, for example. We have also asked Arne Amaliksen, our Business Administrator, to put together a possible Building Aid Funding package for improvements in a variety of individual projects such as resurfacing parking lots at WHS and WES, window replacement, and so forth. The Board is committed to a three-five year plan for addressing all building and grounds issues.

4. Ensure professionalism in all employees. At the March, 1998 District Meeting, the School Board was asked about progress on discussions of merit pay with teachers. The Board has recognized that an important part of determining "merit" is a common understanding of what expert teaching is. During the summer of 1998, all Haverhill Principals and one Assistant Principal participated in a Research for Better Teaching course on instructional supervision, designed to give administrators a common vision of teaching excellence and language for helping teachers to improve teaching skills. There is a parallel course for teachers offered by Research for Better Teaching which six WHS teachers are taking this year. In a January, 1999 professional development activity, the administrators and teachers trained by RBT

presented the teaching model and introduction to RBT's components of teaching to all professional and support staff. This is in preparation for a Haverhill course by RBT in the summer. This represents the faculty, administration and Boards plan to strengthen our teacher assessment practices and bring about agreement on what we mean by teaching excellence.

Our mathematics consultants from Kentucky continue to work with us, having spent three weeks with us over the past year. A large number of teachers also attended the New England Reading Association Conference in NH and a Literacy/Technology/Learning Disabilities workshop in Massachusetts. We hosted an afternoon with the Principal and Reading Specialist from Josiah Bartlett Elementary School, NH's Elementary School of Excellence for 1998, to learn about the Literacy Program at that school. Subsequent visits by teachers to Bartlett have brought new perspectives to us about how to organize Literacy. Support Staff have met with the Superintendent and Michael Penkert to develop more systematic professional development programs for them. We encourage Support Staff members to complete the course offered by various NH institutions that certifies Instructional Assistants. In fact, there is a financial incentive in the Support Staff Contract for employees who receive this certification. In short, district-based and school-based professional development programs continue to be a priority as we work to strengthen instruction in Haverhill schools.

5. Inform the community of our work. We continue publication of the Superintendent's SAU 23 NOTES monthly as a way of letting the public know about issues and activities that happen over the course of the year. I am very pleased with the comments I have received from the public, indicating that people do read the NOTES. I am also receiving more e-mail from community members with ideas or questions. (Contact the Superintendent at ljnelson@together.net.)

A new plan for helping the public learn about school issues will be piloted in the Spring, 1999. We plan to hold a morning "Breakfast with the Principal" at each school. If the spring pilot is well received, Principals will hold three breakfasts during the 1999-2000 school year. They will be informal gatherings to provide community members a chance to chat with the Principal about the school. This continues our efforts to improve communication between the schools and the community.

Community partnerships with business groups like the Haverhill Business and Industry Roundtable, sponsored by the Haverhill Economic Coordinating Council, and the Haverhill Community Resources, Inc. and the Haverhill Recreation Commission help to keep the schools linked to community issues and plans.

6: Develop fiscally responsible budgets. Benton's budget reflects changes in special education and tuition expenses over the past year. The

School Board continues to fund the Special Trust in this year's budget while tax rates are low. The Trust currently has \$52,000 in principle. The actual amount including interest will be available at the District Meeting.

The Haverhill budget includes a one-time influx of Foundation Aid funds. These have provided the Board with a series of decisions about how to support school needs and reduce property tax rates in Haverhill. The proposed budget reduces the tax rate, sets aside \$100,000 in the Library, Media Trust Fund, and funds some one-time expenses needed to upgrade our programs and our buildings. We have also restored one-half of a teacher salary to allow for a full-day kindergarten program.

We continue to seek outside funding to supplement the basic budget. The technology grant is the most obvious example, although we have recently received funding to train all K-12 teachers in Project Learning Tree (PLT), an environmental education program that we hope to introduce throughout the system. We have Scott Edwards to thank for bringing PLT into our system. The WES Playground Committee is working on grants to help fund needed playground improvements. The schools are planning submissions to augment our Student Assistance Program funds.

Balancing educational program needs and taxpayer concerns about spending growth is a difficult task, at best, in a low wealth district. The School Board understands these competing priorities and keeps them in the forefront of decision making. Our schools and students continue to benefit from Haverhill Cooperative School Board's fair, informed, supportive leadership.

The Haverhill educational team remains strong. Principals and Assistant Principals provide us with strong educational leadership. Faculty and staff have embraced our professional development goals and continue to improve their already substantial educational skills and to put them to use for our students. The community volunteers from all districts that send students from Haverhill continue to work with us in our schools. In this era of funding uncertainty in New Hampshire, it is re-assuring to live in a community like Benton and Haverhill, that work cooperatively and thoughtfully to support students and families. Whatever the state funding decisions, this community has proven that local problems can and will be solved locally.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Nelson
Superintendent

SAU #23 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

DISTRICT	1998-99 TOTAL PERCENT	1998-99 APPORTIONMENT		1999-2000 TOTAL PERCENT	1999-2000 APPORTIONMENT	1998-99/1999-00 DIFFERENCE
		1998-99 APPORTIONMENT	1999-2000 APPORTIONMENT			
BATH	9.85%	\$36,855	13.47%	\$48,437	\$11,582	
BENTON	1.48%	\$5,538	1.91%	\$6,868	\$1,330	
HAVERHILL	55.24%	\$206,687	64.25%	\$231,040	\$24,353	
MONROE	17.25%	\$64,543	0.00%	\$0	(\$64,543)	
PIERMONT	8.18%	\$30,606	10.58%	\$38,027	\$7,421	
WARREN	8.00%	\$29,933	9.80%	\$35,222	\$5,289	
TOTAL	100.00%	\$374,160	100.00%	\$359,595	(\$14,565)	

SAU #23 ASSESSMENT HISTORY

YEAR	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
TOTAL	\$708,532	\$583,496	\$371,719	\$390,882	\$392,644	\$374,160	\$359,594

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 PROJECTED REVENUES

			1999-2000
Local Revenue			
1336	Tuition - French Pond		\$130,329
1337	Tuition -French Pond Summer School		\$6,373
1942	Itinerants		\$58,342
1510	Interest		\$5,000 *
1947	Speech/ Language		\$92,713
5220	Transfer from Federal Projects		\$13,700 *
	Total Revenue Fund I		\$306,457
	Revenue from Federal and State Sources		
4410	Title I		\$328,116
4410	Title II		\$15,048
4470	94-142 Psychologist		\$86,000
4470	Pre - School		\$5,774
4480	Title IV Drug/Alcohol		\$7,566
4490	Title VI		<u>\$14,292</u>
	Total Federal and State Revenues		\$456,796
	TOTAL REVENUE		\$763,253
	District Assessment		\$359,595
	Use of Fund Balance		<u>\$25,000</u> *
	GRAND TOTAL		\$1,147,848

* These amounts reduce the assessment from \$403,295 shown in budget

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 1999-2000 BUDGET

		1997-98 EXPENDITURES	1998-99 BUDGET	1999-2000 BUDGET	1999-2000 ASSESSMENT	DIFFERENCE
FUND 1 GENERAL FUND						
1100 Regular Programs		\$78,325	\$83,554	\$58,342	\$0	(\$25,212)
1230 French Pond		\$117,705	\$121,290	\$125,654	\$0	\$4,364
1425 FPS Summer School		\$4,547	\$6,085	\$6,073	\$0	(\$12)
2140 Psychological Services		\$1,065	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	(\$5,000)
2150 Speech and Audiology		\$64,581	\$69,544	\$90,194	\$0	\$20,650
2159 Speech - Summer School		\$2,279	\$2,524	\$2,519	\$0	(\$5)
2212 Curriculum Development		\$145	\$1,450	\$0	\$0	(\$1,450)
2213 Instructional Staff Training		\$1,584	\$3,150	\$2,000	\$2,000	(\$1,150)
2311 School Board		\$404	\$1,295	\$1,492	\$1,492	\$197
2313 SAU Treasurer		\$2,166	\$2,458	\$2,454	\$2,454	(\$4)
2315 Legal		\$365	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
2317 Audit		\$9,646	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
2321 Office of the Superintendent		\$276,030	\$277,495	\$295,557	\$295,557	\$18,062
2330 Special Educ. Admin. Services		\$73,178	\$74,811	\$68,292	\$68,292	(\$6,19)
2542 Operation of Buildings		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
2544 Care and Upkeep Equipment		\$9,656	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0
2557 FPS Transportation		\$4,338	\$4,925	\$4,675	\$0	(\$250)
2558 FPSS Transportation		\$119	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$666,133	\$687,381	\$691,052	\$403,295	\$3,671
FUND 2 FEDERAL/STATE PROGRAMS						
Title I Programs		\$338,677	\$338,116	\$328,116	\$0	(\$10,000)
Title 2 Eisenhower Funds		\$22,245	\$23,335	\$15,048	\$0	(\$8,287)
Title 6 Innovative Education		\$16,318	\$15,685	\$14,292	\$0	(\$1,393)
Title 4 Safe & Drug Free School		\$8,353	\$8,209	\$7,566	\$0	(\$643)
Governor's Grants		\$33,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$8,000)
IDEA SPED Funds		\$98,315	\$99,774	\$91,774	\$0	(\$28,323)
FUND 2 TOTAL		\$516,908	\$485,119	\$455,796	\$0	(\$24,652)
SAU BUDGET TOTAL		\$1,183,041	\$1,172,500	\$1,147,848	\$403,295	(\$24,652)

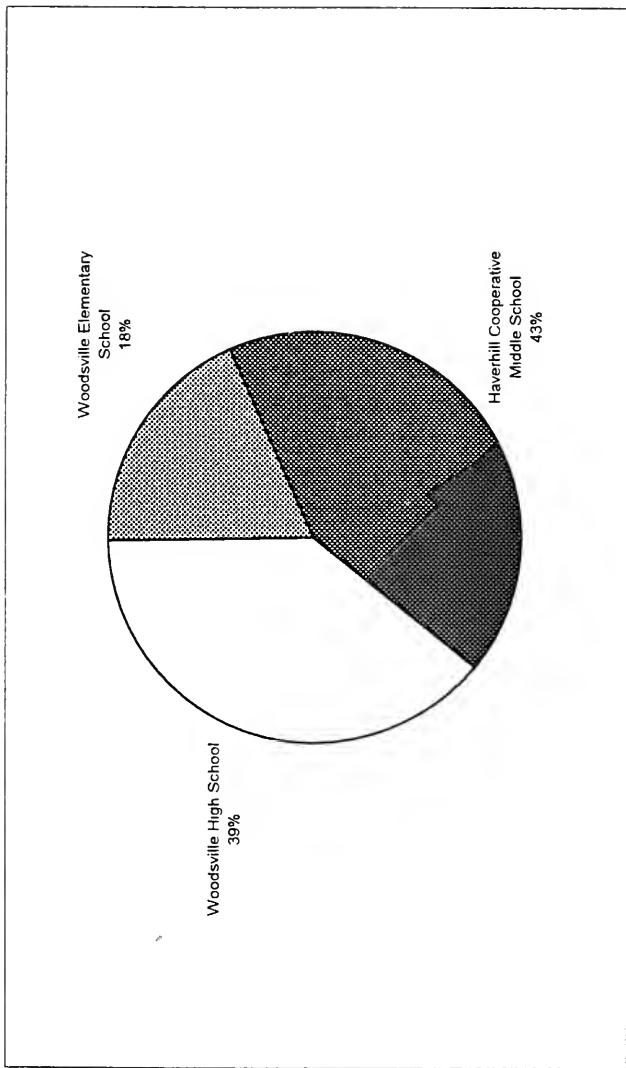
School Administrative Unit #23
Report of the Superintendent's and Business Administrator's Salaries

Section 5, Chapter 243, Laws of 1953 of the State of New Hampshire requires that school district annual reports show the total amount paid to the Superintendent and Business Administrator.

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses is prorated among the school districts of the Unit on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of SAU #23 during the 1998-99 school year will receive a salary of \$70,000. The Business Administrator position is a contracted consultant service for \$18,000. Both are prorated among the school districts. The table below shows the proration of the salary to each school district:

1998-99		
Superintendent Salary		
Bath	\$6,895	9.85%
Benton	\$1,036	1.48%
Haverhill Cooperative	\$38,668	55.24%
Monroe	\$12,075	17.25%
Piermont	\$5,726	8.18%
Warren	\$5,600	8.00%
TOTAL	\$70,000	
Business Administrator Contracted Consultant		
Bath	\$1,773	9.85%
Benton	\$ 266	1.48%
Haverhill Cooperative	\$9,943	55.24%
Monroe	\$3,105	17.25%
Piermont	\$1,473	8.18%
Warren	\$1,440	8.00%
TOTAL	\$18,000	

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 1998-99 (as of December 15, 1998)	
STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Woodsville Elementary School	7
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	16
Woodsville High School	15
TOTAL	38

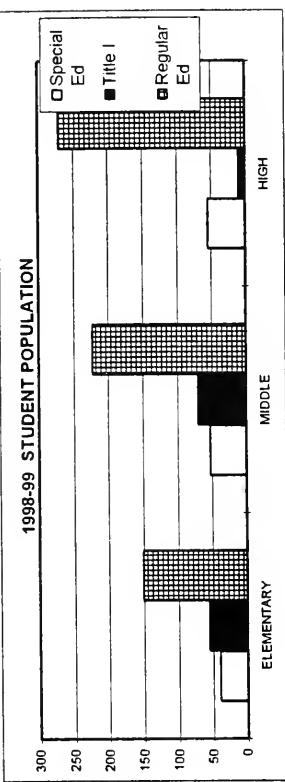


HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENT POPULATION

1998-99

	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Special Ed.	40	53	55
Title I	56	70	9
Regular Ed.	151	223	271
TOTAL STUDENTS	247	346	335

1998-99 STUDENT POPULATION

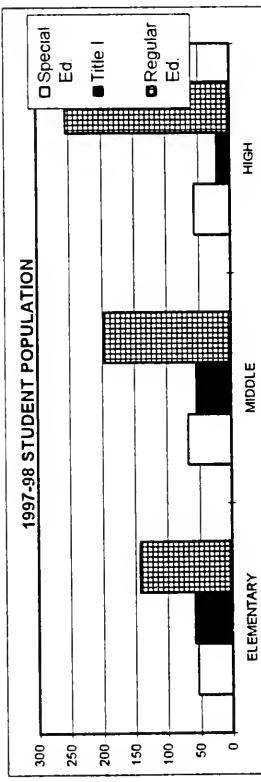


PRESCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVING SERVICES	
Total Preschool	24
Special Ed.	7
Title I	13

1997-98 STUDENT POPULATION

	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Special Ed.	54	68	57
Title I	59	55	21
Regular Ed.	143	198	255
TOTAL STUDENTS	256	321	333

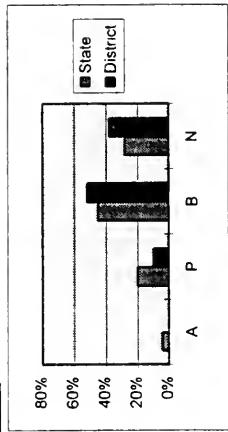
1997-98 STUDENT POPULATION



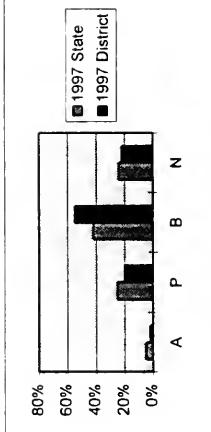
PRESCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVING SERVICES	
Total Preschool	22
Special Ed.	8
Title I	14

HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
THIRD GRADE STATE ASSESSMENT SCORES

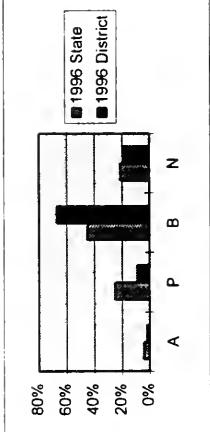
Language Arts



	<u>1998</u>	
	State	District
Advanced	4%	0%
Proficient	20%	10%
Basic	45%	52%
Novice	28%	38%



	<u>1997</u>	
	State	District
Advanced	5%	2%
Proficient	25%	20%
Basic	42%	55%
Novice	24%	22%

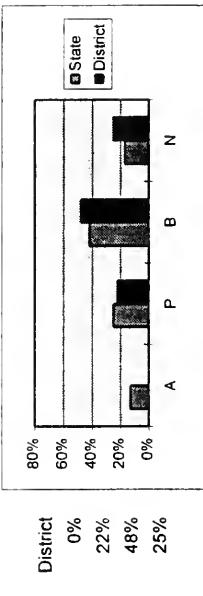


	<u>1996</u>	
	State	District
Advanced	4%	2%
Proficient	25%	9%
Basic	45%	67%
Novice	21%	19%

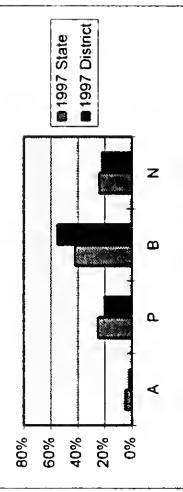
**HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
THIRD GRADE STATE ASSESSMENT SCORES**

Mathematics

		<u>1998</u>	
		State	District
Advanced	A	13%	0%
Proficient	P	25%	22%
Basic	B	42%	48%
Novice	N	17%	25%



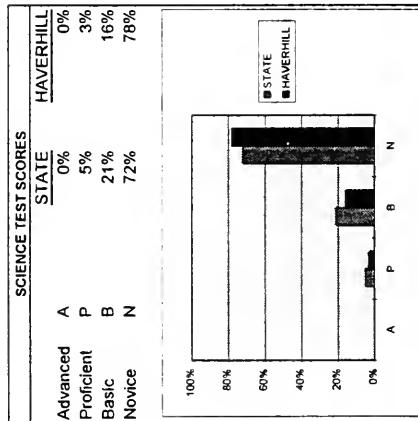
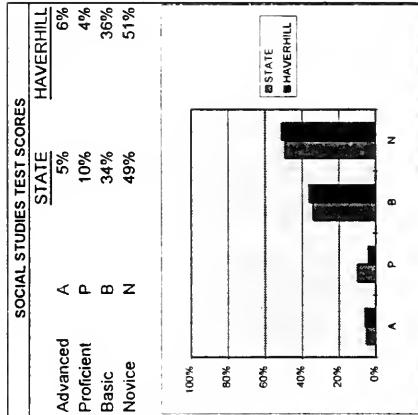
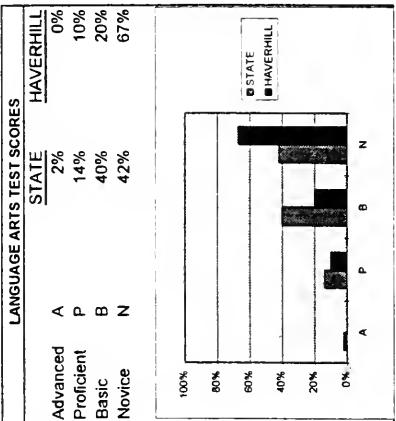
		<u>1997</u>	
		State	District
Advanced	A	5%	2%
Proficient	P	25%	20%
Basic	B	42%	55%
Novice	N	24%	22%



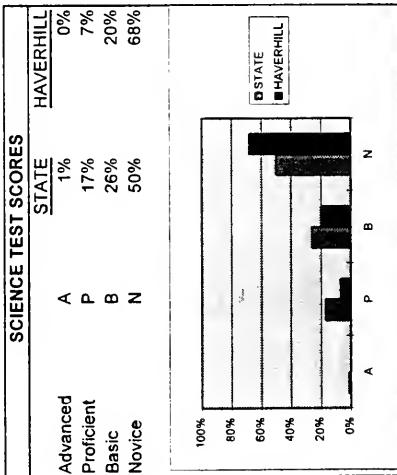
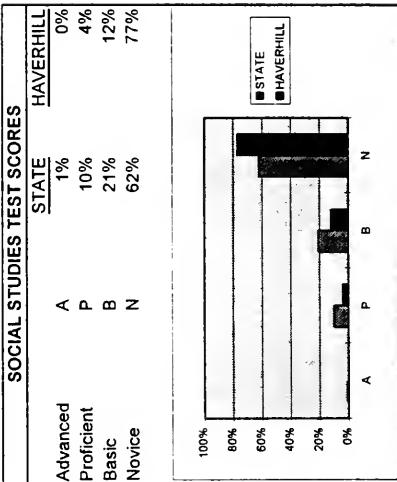
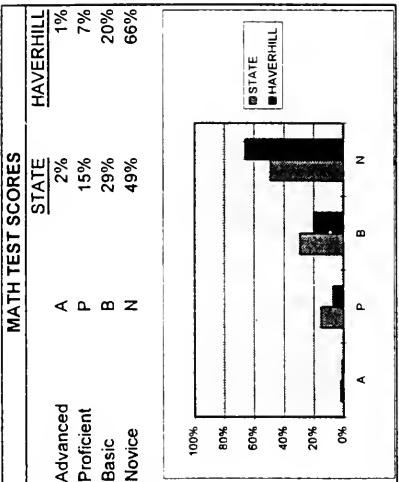
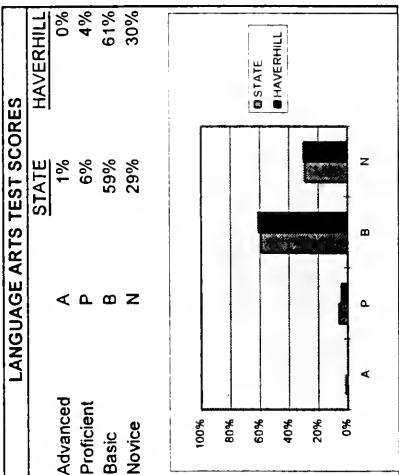
		<u>1996</u>	
		State	District
Advanced	A	10%	7%
Proficient	P	23%	23%
Basic	B	46%	49%
Novice	N	18%	18%



HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATE ASSESSMENT RESULTS
END OF GRADE 6
1998



HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATE ASSESSMENT RESULTS
END-OF-GRADE 10
1998



UNH Library
Durham, NH 03824

